

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 remain pending after amendment.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, various editorial amendments are made in claims 1-16. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 1-16.

Objection to Specification

The specification is objected to due to the reference to the claim for foreign priority in the first sentence of the specification.

In response, the noted portion of the specification is deleted. The objection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

Objection to Drawings and Specification

The drawings and specification are objected to for the reason that the drawings do not depict (and the specification does not describe) a slot which terminates short of the mid way point between the edges as defined by claims 1 and 9.

In response, claims 1 and 9 are amended to delete the noted limitation. Claims 1 and 9 are further amended to recite language believed to clarify applicants' intent. In view of the amendment of the claims, the noted objections are moot and should be withdrawn.

**Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two)**

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two) as not distinctly claiming the invention. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

In response, the claims are amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejection of the Examiner.

The rejection is thus believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

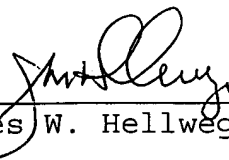
In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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